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rely upon the Admiralty's well-known stamp, and discover perhaps when too late that the surveys were duly noticed in the title of the chart as not being made by the Admiralty officers. This chart of the Sea of Marmora ought to be corrected and republished.

It is possible that the rock alluded to, which is now under water, might have sunk since the time the surveys were made, and it is also possible that the same cause which depressed the rock might have elevated the isthmus of Artaki. This supposition would be partly consistent with the representations both of the chart and of Strabo, but still not quite reconcilable with the comparatively recent date of the Admiralty chart.

At the same time, it may be well to remark that the earthquake of March, 1854, with which we in these localities were visited, caused many changes in the country between Artaki and Mount Olympus, so much so that the courses of some rivers near Brusa were entirely altered, and have remained so since.

EDMUND LEAHY.

10. *Ascent of the Albert River in search of the Letters of Mr. A. Gregory, in command of the North Australian Expedition.* By Mr. JAMES FLOOD, Assistant Botanist.

November 13th, anchorage off the mouth of the Albert.—Daylight, heavy clouds to the S.W., wind strong from the E.; the bar in front of the river could be seen from the masthead, and was dry for a long distance. Deeming it unsafe to start with a small boat deeply laden while the wind was blowing so fresh and such a heavy cross sea on the bar, caused by the tide and wind, I had everything required for the journey got in readiness, with 10 days' rations, consisting of flour, pork, tea, and sugar, with a small keg of water. The wind and sea having somewhat abated, I left the vessel at 11·5 A.M., taking with me three men of the expedition, viz. Selby, Showell, M'Donald, and one of the crew. In crossing the bar the boat grounded, when we had to get out and draw her over the sand for about a mile. Entered the river (Kangaroo Point) at 12·45 P.M., when, passing the point, three natives came running down to the bank, calling out and beckoning for us to land. They all carried long spears, and in the hands of one was a large tomahawk. Proceeded up the river and reached the two first islands by 4·10 P.M. The wind now flew round to the south, which, against the tide, caused such a sea that with some little difficulty we kept the things in the boat dry. When we came abreast of the next two islands the wind increased from south, rising the dust and leaves in clouds, and we had to hold on to the mangroves to save our boat from taking in water. From Kangaroo Point to these islands the river banks are nearly one unbroken line of mangroves, behind which, in places, there appear to be extensive mangrove swamps. The islands consist of a mass of mangrove-trees, the tide at high-water flowing in among them. Entered the western branch of the river at 6·30 P.M., pushed on through the most tortuous reaches, having a fair tide, and hopes of getting fresh water, as the river was said by Captain Stokes to be fresh above Island Reach. We had now been some few hours without any, and one of the men was knocked up through drinking salt-water. At midnight passed through Island Reach, when, upon tasting the water, it was as salt as the sea. Mosquitoes now began to become troublesome.

Nov. 14th.—Passed through the large bend beyond Island Reach and by the remainder of the islands, when the mosquitoes became so thick and troublesome that we could pull no longer. At 3 A.M. we landed, lit a fire, rolled ourselves up in our blankets, and tried to get sleep for two hours, but the mosquitoes kept themselves too fully occupied to allow of sleep, so we started again at daybreak. The river now begins to wear a different aspect, banks from 30 to 35 feet high show themselves with a few straggling gum-trees, but the mangroves in most places still line the river. We passed the 30 feet red sandstone cliffs, when another of the men was taken ill. At Alligator Point we encamped for a short time for a rest, but at 11·15 A.M. started again and pulled on against the tide. Passing up Hope Reach I had three men unable to work. The country bears a better appearance; undulating plains stretch away on each side of the river covered with gum-trees, having a very parched and arid appearance. Along the river sides are growing a species of melaleuca and casuarina; the river banks are much cut up by large ravines and gullies; these again are choked with trees and masses of earth. Camped at dusk near the tall palm-trees marked on the charts. I made a drink here that proved less disagreeable than pure salt-water, of which we all began to feel the effects: it was made by boiling flour, sugar, and salt-water together; mixed thin it was drinkable. Two of the men, during the heat of the day, had become quite delirious, but in the cool of the evening they were much better. Wind during the day from the south; 11·30 P.M. started with a fair tide.

Nov. 15th.—At 2·15 A.M. came to the wished-for junction of the river at the end of Hope Reach; one branch trending to the westward, the other running to the south. We pulled up the latter some distance, but could not find any fresh water, though there was certainly a slight improvement, it not being quite so salt. Camped until daylight, when we pulled up the river again, till it became choked with snags and fallen trees. A few tall palms, some pandanus, a small flagellaria cane, and a drooping melaleuca, were growing on the river banks, but even here mangroves are to be seen in small patches. Landed on the left bank of the river and came upon the tracks of Mr. Gregory's party. Proceeding up this branch of the river to the southward, with two men, I followed the tracks of the horses for some distance, until they crossed the river; here a number of trees had been barked; we still followed the river for some distance, until it became very narrow and nothing but a dry watercourse. So far there was no fresh water procurable. I went to the Plains of Promise, which bear as barren an aspect as any country I had seen in North Australia. The soil is a light sandy loam; the grass had been burnt off, so that a few crooked gum-trees were the most conspicuous of the flora. After taking a good view of the surrounding country, which gave no appearance of improvement in any direction, we returned to the boat and pulled down to the junction. Before starting, I planted 200 tamarind-seeds on the river bank. At the landing-place the depth of this arm of the river is from 14 to 15 feet. Fish appeared scarce; vampire-bats very numerous. The river banks are much cut in here by small and deep watercourses; I landed on the point, and found the marked tree of Mr. Gregory with directions where to find the letters, which I procured. The date of his arrival was on the 30th of August. Trees had also been cut here by the crew of the *Torch*, and the name of Lieut. Chimmo was cut in large letters on a gum-tree, dated August 3rd. Any letters that had been left by Lieut. Chimmo I concluded had been procured by Mr. Gregory. I left marks here by cutting my name upon a large gum-tree, with directions where to dig for a letter which I buried at the foot of the tree for Mr. Baines, as he had not yet arrived at the river. We pulled three miles up the western arm, and found the water very slightly brackish, so we camped for two hours and had a good pot of tea with a short sleep, which was very much needed. This arm of the river is full of dead snags; it is much larger than the southern branch. There must be a fine supply of fresh water from a good source to be running so strong at this (the driest) season; immense large forest trees lined the banks, having been carried down by the floods. The river banks were covered in many places with green grass. The trees on the banks still retain their green foliage, and undoubtedly this is the finest part of the river. The camping places of natives were more numerous, and heaps of mussel-shells were strewed round their fires. The tide was now at ebb, so we filled every article that could be made to hold water and started down the river again, considerably refreshed. In passing I landed at the western and eastern angles; at the former there were no trees marked; at the latter Mr. Gregory had marked some trees, dated September 2nd, and had buried more letters, which I procured, and reached the tall palm-trees at 8 P.M., when meeting the flood-tide, we camped for the night.

Nov. 16*th.*—Started at 5 A.M. with the first of the tide, having had a restless night caused by the mosquitoes; passed the 30 feet cliffs, through Island Reach, and within four miles of the junction near the salt-water arm. At 5 P.M., the tide having turned, we encamped on a high, soft, mud-bank by the side of the river, the only spot within some miles that was free from mangroves. Although these banks are some feet above high water, yet the surface of them is quite soft, with a sticky kind of bluish clay covered with a coarse grass. After supper we rolled ourselves up in our blankets, and lay down for sleep, but no sooner did it become dusk than our old enemies, the mosquitoes, commenced in such good earnest, that we were forced to take to the boat. Every precaution, even a smoking fire, appearing useless, we pulled down to the junction and came to again, to wait for the turn of tide.

Nov. 17*th.*—We were all very glad when the tide turned, for the mosquitoes drove away all sleep. We started at 3·30 A.M. with a good flood-tide, passed all the Mangrove Islands, and seeing a good clear part of the bank on the left side, about seven miles from the entrance of the river, we landed and had breakfast. At this part of the river a small sandy alluvial plain descends, having a bank about 20 feet high. At the foot of this, at low water, the bed is seen covered with numbers of shells of many genera—arcas, cytheras, barnacles, &c. Trees were scattered here and there among them. We reached Kangaroo Point by 9 A.M., pushed out over the bar, and it being very low-water, we had to drag the boat about 1½ mile over the bar, but in two hours after leaving Kangaroo Point we reached the vessel, December 16th, 1857.

ERRATA.

At page 65, Equation 3, instead of a, read $a + b$, in both denominators.

At page 231, after "Estimate for 1858," *insert* "and Resolutions respecting Secretarial Duties."

At page 323, at the 17th line from the foot, instead of *Pan*gany, *read Kin*gany.

⁂ *All communications must be prepaid.*